

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES AND EXCEEDANCES

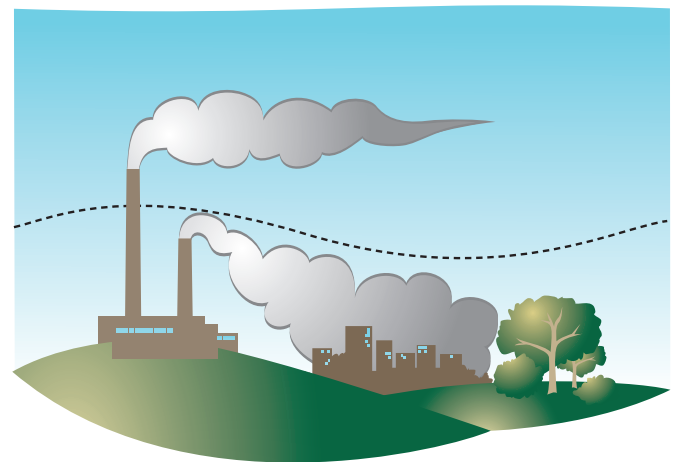
Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAAQO) are established by the Government of Alberta, under the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) works with a variety of stakeholders, including other government departments, the scientific community, environmental organizations, industry and the general public to develop and review objectives. AAAQOs provide environmental and human health protection to an extent technically and economically feasible, as well as consider what is socially and politically acceptable. AAAQOs are set well below what are considered emergency levels.

The AAAQOs are compared to actual air quality measurements to:

- Assess regional cumulative effects.
- Establish approval conditions for regulated industrial facilities.
- Evaluate proposals for constructing facilities.
- Guide special ambient air quality surveys.
- Inform Albertans on air quality through an air quality health index.
- Report on the state of Alberta's atmospheric environment.

Fort Air Partnership (FAP) is responsible for monitoring and reporting on ambient air quality in this region. On the back page is a flow chart of what occurs when FAP records an exceedance of an AAAQO. FAP reports all exceedances to the provincial government as per reporting protocols. It is the responsibility of government to determine whether there is a need to issue an air quality advisory for the public.



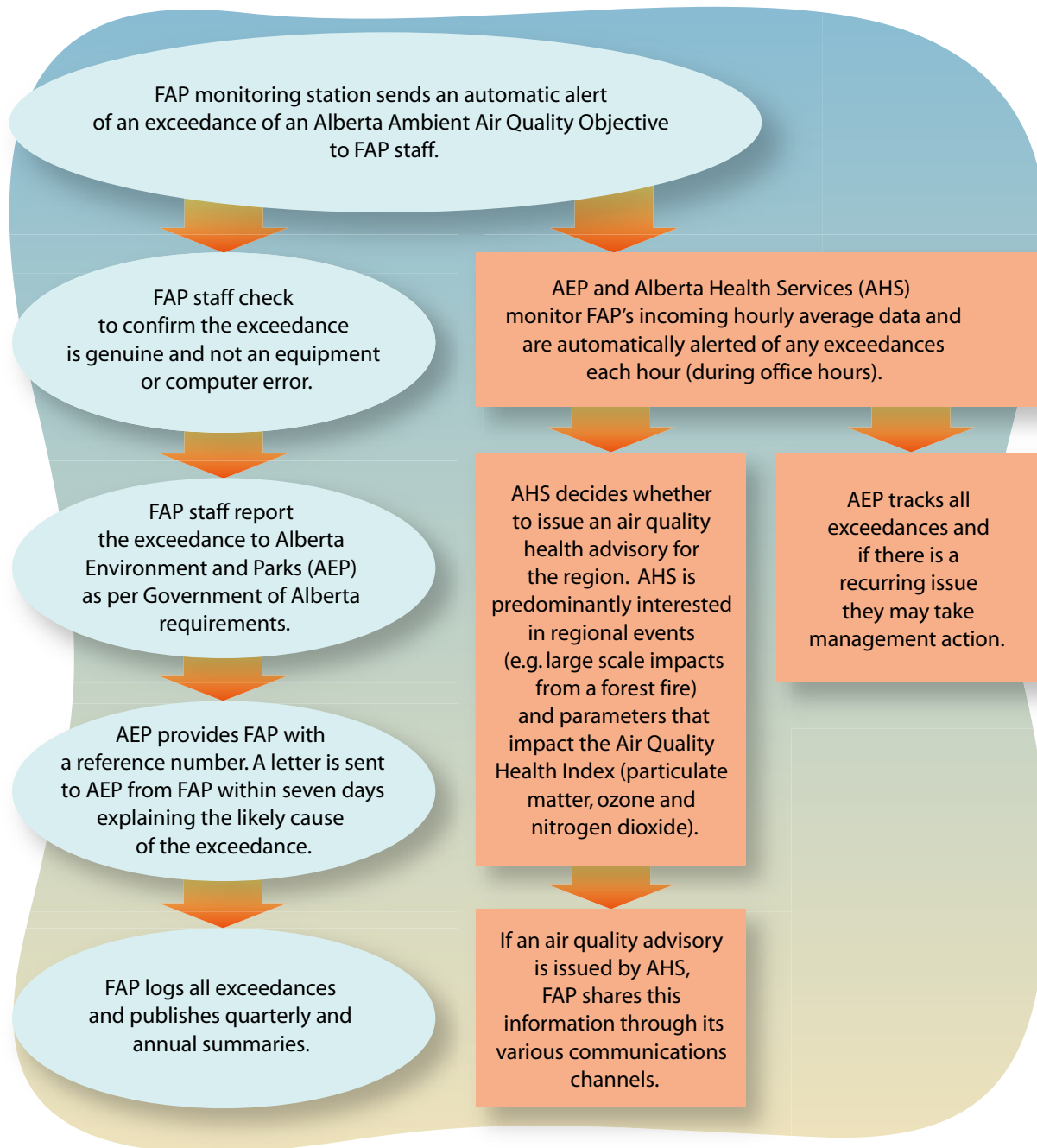
It is important to note that AAAQO exceedances do not necessarily mean there is an environmental or air quality emergency. In rare cases when an air quality emergency does occur, there are mechanisms in place to alert local residents. These include:

- NRCAER Update line. It provides updates on irregular industrial activity (1-866-653-9959).
- Municipal emergency alert systems (specific to each municipality).
- Air quality statements and alerts by Alberta Health and Alberta Environment and Parks, posted on-line and through the media.

If you have a concern about air quality in your area you can call AEP's 24-hour Environmental Hotline at 1-800-222-6514.



AAAQO Exceedance Reporting Flow Chart



FORT AIR PARTNERSHIP

We Monitor the Air You Breathe

This is one of a series of fact sheets on air quality developed by Fort Air Partnership. The rest of the series is available at fortair.org.